Going Steady

As readers will see in this month's report of the Central Council meeting, Toc H and the Women's Association have now taken the first important step along the road to Integration. Now will follow the setting up of a special committee with the task of working out a new Constitution which can be put to next year's Central Councils with a view to acceptance and implementation.

It would be the greatest possible mistake, however, for members to assume that from now until next April the ball is firmly in the court of the Constitution-makers, and that meantime we sit back and await events. By far the greatest task of preparation for what is to come rests with the rank and file Branch members and with District Teams. Constitutions may define what is in the head; only the Branches themselves, by their actions, can demonstrate what is in the heart, and what is in the heart is far and away the more important.

Our report records a declaration made some years ago that Toc H was the last one-sex national society to be founded in this country. That may well be true. Now we wonder how many instances there are of parallel men's and women's societies amalgamating after many years of separate identity, and how they have fared. How near are we to being the first to attempt it?

One thing is sure: it will not be easy, and anyone who thinks that it will be a simple matter of sticking together two identical halves hasn't really begun to think at all. Quite inevitably each half will have developed habits and traditions of its own and over the years these will have hardened to a degree that will make it difficult to bend them into some new conformable shape.

At Branch and District level particularly we could well spend the next ten months discussing frankly the differences in our ways of doing things. Can we not seek to discuss in depth such questions as *Leadership:* Do the men rely on personal leadership whereas the women prefer to work through committees? Do women trust each other as far as men seem to do? *Efficiency:* Are the women more efficient, even to the point of rigidity and the men often so inefficient as to be ready to fall apart? *Training:* The women take training far more conscientiously than the men. Without any doubt they read the men's publications more faithfully than do the men themselves. Why?

There are heaps of questions to hammer out, and much hard and honest thinking must go on at all levels before we can hope to say that not only do we function under one head but that our two hearts have begun to beat as one.

Mother of the Free . . ?

Not without reason this country prides itself on the capacity it has had throughout the centuries to absorb people from other countries, many of them refugees, and thereby enriching its own national character. But the post-war influx of coloured peoples from the Commonwealth has created a situation with which the country has as yet failed to come to serious terms. This is brought out quite shatteringly in the new Political and Economic Planning report, *Racial Discrimination*. It is available from P. E. P., 12 Upper Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1., and an edited Penguin version is due to appear shortly.

The cases of discrimination in housing, in employment (particularly in the skilled occupations), and in such things as insurance are well documented. If we thought that the problems would ease when 'second generation' immigrants grew up, speaking and thinking in English, just like you and me, then this Report gives us a nasty shock.

The plain fact is that from now on Britain will be to a greater extent than ever before a multi-racial, multi-coloured community, and anything that Toc H members can do to remove the causes of antagonism, real or imaginary, will be a national service of the highest importance.

Fathers and Sons

It was nice to see so much evidence at the Central Council of fathers and sons together being involved in the leadership of Toc H. We heard of John Cattell, son of Cyril Cattell, the General Secretary, being appointed to Talbot House, Southampton, after a spell on the staff in BAOR. We appointed as a new Corporation President Lancelot Prideaux-Brune, whose son Kenneth is one of the Projects Team on Tower Hill. Perhaps the most intriguing instance was when the Council Chairman, 'Doc' Mitchell, was under harassment from son John (also of the Projects Centre) over the move to discontinue the *New Forum*. Perhaps not for the first time in his life Mitchell Junior came near to being ruled, paternally, out of order!

DOES YOUR ARM SNORE?

Well not quite, but have **you** ever woken up to find your arm "asleep" — numb and temporarily incapable of movement? Think what it would be like if all your limbs were permanently too weak to move. Muscular dystrophy has just that result.

Thousands of young children have this dreadful inherited disease which wastes away muscle. The first symptoms show when they are three.

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Belgian workmen getting to grips with dry rot on the ground floor of the Old House. Photo: Advice & Action Ltd.

NEW PROPS FOR OLD HOUSE

WE HAD LITTLE DOUBT that when it became known that Talbot House in Poperinge was suffering from temporary indisposition in the shape of dry rot there would be a quick rescue operation.

Physically speaking, surgical and medical treatment (by Rentokil) has successfully dealt with the disease. Such treatment does not come under any national insurance scheme and the specialist's fees have to be met.

Financially speaking, treatment was given by a small group of veteran members who invited some of their contemporaries and others who felt moved to assist to join them in the operation. The Appeal Letter, signed by Lancelot Prideaux-Brune as Hon. Treasurer of the Talbot House Appeal Fund, bore the names of Edmund Blunden, Rex Calkin, Jack Clark, Philip Clayton, Brian Dickson and Geoffrey Martin.

So far, these essential 'blood' donors have provided enough cash to cover the bills, and some seven year covenants, if they run their course, will provide enough to pay for other urgent repair work.

The fund is still open and the Hon. Treasurer is confident that more will be received, sufficient to pay for certain much needed improvements to the amenities. He has heard from the Belgian members of the Talbot House Association (in which the property is vested under Belgian law) that they are themselves inviting contributions from Belgian 'Friends' with no small success.

Letters that accompanied contributions reveal not only nostalgic memories of the early days of Talbot House and its cheery 'innkeeper' but also the profound influence that both have exercised upon men's lives ever since.

Nor is it only members of Toc H who have rallied to the aid of the patient. Most generous help and stimulating comment has come from many others, especially from such sources as the Friends of St. George's, Ypres, the Retired Members of the Queen's Westminsters (who first constructed the Upper Room), Old Contemptibles and early visitors to the House.

It is obvious that those who once knew (some still do) Talbot House intimately are heartened to know that it still serves as effectively and cheerfully today. It is a proud and living tradition.

COLIN CAMPBELL.

Abortion and the Law

DAVID GULLICK

Last month we printed an article by Dr. Robin Fawcus, a member now in his eighties. Another Toc H doctor, of a younger generation, now writes on a current problem of wide social impor' David Gullick, whilst a G.P., was a founder member of Stevenage Branch in 1948 and has since been everything from Branch officer to Area Chairman. He is at present Under Secretary of the B.M.A.

"The only true crime is that the law should require a woman to bear an unwanted child."

"At conception begins a new life, as fully entitled to the law's protection as yours or mine."

SUCH VIEWS, sincerely held and poles apart, have been expressed recently about abortion, or termination of pregnancy. These opinions are irreconcilable, but the majority of the community is in favour of a new law on abortion. Is it possible to find a statutory compromise or middle way? Something which though unacceptable to the humanist and to the cardinal, does not grossly outrage their belief—and a law which doctors can work under, and exercise their skill within their ethical code?

To begin with, what does the law say now? No clear guidance is found in any Act of Parliament. What it does say is that it is a crime *unlawfully* to procure an abortion — but is silent on what would be a lawful abortion. The judges have had to interpret this, and the position now, in general terms, is that an abortion is lawful if it is carried out by a doctor in good faith to preserve the life of the mother—or to prevent serious risk to her health. This is however 'case law' and in theory at least another judge, or a higher court, might take a different line, and any doctor terminating a pregnancy must bear this risk in mind.

This, it is argued, is unsatisfactory; a doctor might be deterred from taking action in a justifiable case for abortion because of this legal doubt. It must be pointed out however that a number of gynaecologists do not take this view; they believe the law to be quite satisfactory, and that they can practise under it, without fear of prosecution.

Another factor has become increasingly important: the possibility of forecasting, with increased certainty, the risk of the child being born deformed. The thalidomide babies are an example of this, and certain infections and hereditary illnesses may produce a like result. The law takes no account of this as grounds for terminating pregnancy—but it is done, and if challenged could only be defended by saying that the mother's mental health was impaired by her anxiety about the prospect of a malformed baby. This defence is regarded by many as devious and undesirable; another reason for making a new and clearer law.

We now must consider the most contentious issue; abortion for 'social' reasons, often called by those opposed to it "abortion-on-demand". Should it be lawful to end a pregnancy, not for health reasons, but because the mother-to-be is very young and unmarried, or because she is married but living in one room with several children already, or because her husband is a drunkard or a criminal, or because to have a child at that time would ruin her career? The radical

or 'liberal' reformers say "Yes". Because these are not lawful reasons, they argue, tens of thousands of desperate women go to 'back street abortionists'—often with great hazard to health, or even to life. In violent opposition is the view, strongly held on religious or moral grounds, that we have not the right to take an unborn life: to do so is indistinguishable from extermination of the old or unfit, and equally indefensible.

Within the medical profession, doctors as individual citizens hold the same wide range of opinions as the rest of the population. Their whole training and ethics, since the days of Hippocrates, have been directed to saving life, not destroying it. But they recognise that there are circumstances when continuation of a pregnancy may be fraught with danger—and to end it may be the lesser evil. Balanced against the risk of continuance must be that of termination. Here again there is disagreement. Some hold that termination is a simple operation, with negligible risk, and within the competence of any doctor. Others, and they include the two professional bodies most concerned — the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the British Medical Association —say that no termination is without risk, and sometimes can be difficult and hazardous. Therefore, if it is to be carried out, the decision should rest— in the interests of the woman—in specially experienced hands.

Briefly, the Royal College and the B.M.A. support new legislation—but with certain safeguards: the opinion of two doctors, one having special experience, should be required, and the termination be only permissible in properly equipped premises; secondly that the lawful grounds for termination must be medical only — *viz.* risk to maternal life or health, or a substantial risk of serious deformity of the baby—but in reaching a medical decision all the family and social circumstances of the woman may be taken into account; finally, that the law must be permissive, not mandatory; no one, the mother concerned, the doctor or nurse, shall be obliged to agree to, or take part in an abortion.

As I write, the terms of a Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill are being debated in a Parliamentary Committee. By now, maybe, the Committee will have finished its task, and the Bill about to return to the full House of Commons, for further debate. Listening to the thirty men and women in committee shows it to be a true microcosm of the community. All shades of opinion are there, and the compromises achieved fail to satisfy either extreme. The struggle is not going to finish there.

As citizens and voters, Toc H men and women have to think very fairly indeed to be clear about this problem. It is easy either to dodge the issue or to ignore Cromwell's entreaty—"Consider, you may be mistaken" —and entrench oneself in rectitude. To find one's way round the ethical pitfalls and technical brambles is heavy going, but well worth the effort.

Hovis

the golden hearted taste

The two Central Councils meet in joint session, with 'Doc' Mitchell, centre, in the chair. Photos on this and pp. 96 and 98 by Skegg Blanchard.

The Banns are Published

THE EDITOR

HISTORIC is apt to be an overworked word, but none could possibly deny that at the annual Central Council meeting at The Hayes, Swanwick, in Derbyshire, on April 14-16, real Toc H history was made. For the first time the men's Central Council and the Toc H Women's Association Central Council were meeting at the same Conference Centre, and though for much of the time we were meeting separately to deal with our respective affairs there were two sessions when we met together to confer upon the most momentous proposition of the week-end — the eventual integration of the two halves of our Movement.

Friday evening, as usual, was chiefly a time for shaking down, with an informal session of exchanges of ideas for linking young people with opportunities for service.

It was on the Saturday morning that the Council started, with a warm welcome to 'TUBBY', who last year had to miss the Council through illness, and to Brigadier FRED CHILTON, Hon. Administrator of Toc H Australia, and ERROL GREYLING of Rhodesia.

Before embarking on new business, brief reports were given on matters arising from last year's Council.

Racial Integration

S. GEORGE H. DAVIS (*Hon. Administrator*) said that the new Joint International Team had formed a United Kingdom committee to consider what could be done by Toc H to foster racial integration, and later W. H. BEETON (*C.Ex.*) said that it was hoped to involve young immigrants in some of our Toc H projects.

Slides and Tapes

F. COLIN CAMPBELL (*Public Relations Sec.*) said that he was assembling one set of slides covering Projects, Mobile Action, Schools work, etc., for which a script was in preparation, and another general set. He hoped eventually to produce a set of transparencies covering overseas work as well.

Padre BOB KNIGHT, whose appointment as Administrative Padre was renewed for a further two years, spoke of a returning spirit of self-confidence and sense of direction within the Movement. Twenty years of post-war effort, often with little to show for it initially, was at last beginning to show fruit. There was also a widening of our concept of the family of Toc H to include those involved in Centres and Projects, also Volunteers, Clayton and Winant Volunteers, and Marksmen, though here a greater sense of responsibility towards the burden of the Movement as a whole was needed. There was increased awareness that the meaning of life is found in self-giving. Toc H was seeking ways in which to make itself better known among the Churches and, from its strategic position, was helping to strengthen the links between the clergy operating in specialist and non-parochial ministries.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

Introducing the Annual Report, GEORGE DAVIS said that the new Toc H membership form represented a break-through in our attitude to membership. We must get away from the *mystique* that membership could only come through involvement in Branch life. People who helped us with a job, or who helped Toc H by serving on one of its committees should also be made members of the Family. He hoped that in 1969 we should be able to launch another overseas Project similar to the Etembeni Project of 1965. The new International Team was studying the possibility of backing a scheme in India.

George felt that Fairmindedness was an aspect of Toc H far too much neglected. More study in depth of vital matters of the day was needed, especially at Branch meetings, and a greater willingness to submit oneself to the discipline of serious reading.

CYRIL ROWLEY (*C.Ex*), seconding the Annual Report, supported the need for serious training and urged that still greater use be made of the incomparable facilities of our Training Centre, Dor Knap. There followed a wide-ranging discussion on the Report.

BAOR

MAYNE ELSON, recently appointed Commissioner in Germany, paid high tribute to the work of BILL GIBB, a predecessor who had toiled for many years in the face of severe staff shortages. The staff was now, thank goodness, in greater strength, though hard worked, and there was still room for Toc H members to "come over and help us".

The Marks

The ADMINISTRATOR said that the Central Executive had been concerned about the continued heavy financial loss on the Marks and moreover had been asking itself whether the enormous capital assets which the Marks represented were being used to best advantage. A small independent Commission of Enquiry had therefore been set up under the chairmanship of Sir ARTHUR RUCKER, which had gone to work with a truly remarkable freshness and thoroughness.

Although the Commission's Report was not ready in time for the Council it would be published shortly and would contain wide-reaching conclusions and recommendations — the result of a remarkably penetrating survey, and might conceivably warrant the convening of a Special Council Meeting.

In discussion it soon became clear that opinions on the Marks varied enormously. A. N. CONWAY (*N. Western*) deplored the fact that few Marks contained Toc H Branches nowadays, and said that they were in danger of becoming mere doss-houses. To this COLIN

RUDD (*Mark Padre, Southampton*) retorted that the Movement could help by sending the right kind of applicants to the Marks whereas in fact they were only getting young men who could not find anywhere else to live. T. SPEARS (*Northern*) thought that Marks should be prepared to mould any material, to which the Administrator replied that a core of dedicated Marksmen was essential. N. WOOD (*Beds & Herts*) said that the time for running Marks in an amateur way with an untrained Warden was over, but the Administrator spoke up strongly for the work of our Honorary Wardens, whilst agreeing that some Marks could only function properly with the help of a full-time Warden.

Finally it was agreed to suspend further deliberations until all Councillors had had an opportunity to study the Commission's Report.

The New Membership Form

The new membership form came in for some comment. P. A. DANMERS (*S. Western*) hoped that the flexibility we were claiming for ourselves would not come to mean flabbiness. If Toc H was, as we said, a unique Movement, then at least some experience of life in Toc H should be a pre-requisite of membership. He was supported by fellow S. Western Area Councillor E. J. P. FINNEY, who hoped we were not inclining towards a kind of 'mini-membership'. R. E. PETERS (*Hon. Marks Commissioner*) said that there was still the essential safeguard in that every application for membership had to be supported by two sponsors whose duty it would still be to see that sponsorship was properly exercised.

THE ACCOUNTS

S. V. BERWICK (*Hon. Treasurer*), introducing the Accounts, said that during the year our capital had appreciated by some £13,709, despite the net deficit on the Income and Expenditure Account of £10,453. The two major factors accounting for the increase were the profit on the sale of investments and the sum received for the lease of the land adjoining Mark V, Southampton. The most apparent increase in our capital was in bricks and mortar, up by £24,144, and the increase in investments due to the reinvestment of sales at the end of the year. Stan said that cash or liquidity still remained a constant and serious problem, plainly shown by the fact that our net overdraft at the end of the year was much higher than heretofore. He appealed for more interest-free loans and for regular contributions from Branches instead of leaving their major efforts to the end of October. A loss had been budgeted for the present year, which could be confounded if members sought to reach the target of £5 per member per year, as resolved at the 1966 Council meeting.

KEITH REA (*Finance Secretary*) said that there were good hopes of being able to let the top floor of the Headquarters building at an estimated saving of £4,000 a year, and he disclosed that, even though we are refunded our payments of Selective Employment Tax, the administration costs involved amounted to about £300 a year.

Tubby confers with Brig. Fred Chilton, Hon. Administrator, Toc H Australia. With them Dominic Newbold and 'Chippie'.

S. V. DEFFEE (*W. London*) expressed disappointment that only sixteen Branch Builders had been recruited under the scheme adopted at last year's Central Council, and W. W. TOOHEY (*N. Western*) felt much the same about the efforts towards reaching last year's adopted target of £5 per member per year. Evidently the enthusiasm had not yet passed down the line.

D. E. LOCKHART (*C.Ex. and Chairman of the Properties Committee*) said that each year the budget figure for the repair and maintenance of properties had to be cut down to about half the sum recommended as necessary. We should have to do better than this if we hoped to keep our properties in good condition.

Integration

Then followed the historic meeting when the men's and women's Central Councils met together to discuss the following Resolution which would later be voted upon by each Council in separate session:

> **THAT this Council resolves to establish an integrated Toc H Movement of men and women as soon as possible and hopes that this can be achieved by 1969. The Council instructs its Central Executive to consult with the Central Executive of the Women's Association and by themselves, or by a sub-committee appointed by them, to work out such changes in the Constition of Toc H as are necessary to give effect to this purpose. The Council hopes it will be able to approve at the 1968 Council Meeting a programme proposed by the Central Executive for legal integration and specific proposals for the Constitution under which the integrated Movement will operate.**

Mrs. MARJORIE BERRY (*Joint Chairman of the Joint Executive Team*) opened the ball by describing how J.E.T., comprising nine men and women drawn from the two Central Executives, had moved fast since its formation and had already covered much ground in the five meetings held. The recommendation of the new Joint periodical was just one example. She gave a number of instances which showed the remarkable progress in Joint working throughout the Movement during the past year.

The ensuing discussion revealed a goodly measure of integrated thinking, with men and women contributing in equal measure and with equal lack of inhibition. J. B. PATTIMORE (*Channel Islands*) favoured Integration and said that without it Toc H would last at most ten years longer. Mrs. B. CORNICK (*Women's C.Ex.*) said that in her county, a Joint District, there was a hard core of probably 20 per cent of the men who were dead against it, possibly due to a mistaken impression that all the men would be forced willy nilly into Joint Branches. H. E. NAYLOR (*S.E. London*) spoke of men who feared that women might apply for membership to men's Branches as of right. E. KITCHIN (*Kent*) said that some of these fears could be assuaged if a supplementary resolution were passed, making it clear that Integration would still fully respect the existence of separate men's and women's Branches, as well as Joint Branches. It was agreed to present a supplementary Resolution to this effect at a later session.

Dr. S. F. MITCHELL (*Chairman, Toc H C.Ex.*) reminded us of the gravity of the Resolution on Integration. It was not final or legally binding but if passed it would mark the 'point of no return', for although it could always be revoked the process might prove a mortal blow to the Movement. Mrs. YVETTE FRYMANN (*Nottingham*) warned us that the newly integrated Movement would need to embody the good features of both sides and not the bad. She hoped it would preserve the fellowship and cameraderie of the men, along with the efficiency of the women. Miss CONSTANCE BEAZLEY (*Chairman, Women's Association C.Ex.*) said that all the way through we must keep in the forefront of our minds the real reason for Integration — better Toc H.

(It may be helpful here to interpolate what H. GELL (*C.Ex.*) said much later in the weekend, when he recalled that in 1953, during the Forward Committee meetings, GEORGE HAYNES of the National Council of Social Service had observed that Toc H was probably the last single-sex national society to be formed in this country. The Forward Committee Report had affirmed that the inauguration of any such single-sex society in the present day was quite inconceivable.)

Joint Chairmen of 'JET'. Tom Gulliver and Marjorie Berry.

Summing up, T. A. R. GULLIVER (*Joint Chairman of J.E.T.*) said that 1969 seemed to be the right target date for final Integration. Inevitably there would be problems on the way, but to avoid their becoming nightmares they should be dealt with in charity.

At this point the Joint session ended, giving Councillors time to think about what had been said. The Council then proceeded to consider matters of internal concern.

Old House Appeal

CYRIL CATTELL (*Gen. Sec.*) was able to report that the damage by dry rot to Talbot House, Poperinge, though more extensive than at first thought, had now been eradicated. Already we had received some £740, with a further £250 promised; moreover eight deeds of covenant would produce at maximum about £790. From the town of Poperinge itself had come a heart-warming contribution of £34.

"Basic Movement Advisory Panel"

From COLIN GREGG (*C.Ex.*), a young school teacher who first met Toc H through Projects, came an enthralling account of a scheme started in Stockton-on-Tees by Mr. PAT JOHNSON, to provide specially designed mechanical aids for paralysed people, helping them to a far greater degree of independence than was ever thought possible. He instanced a woman hospital patient who, as a result of the aids provided, had been able to return home and be reunited with her children who had had to be boarded out.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of this story was the wonderful co-operation of so many outside folk — student apprentices, doctors, nurses, architects, solicitors, engineers, electricians, plumbers and others, all most gladly giving of their skills.

Clearly here was a new field of service for exploration by Toc H members everywhere. [*It is intended to publish a full account of the scheme in the next issue of the* JOURNAL.— ED.]

We heard also from Padre COLIN CUTTELL, Vicar of All Hallows, who described the Guild Church as being a fully integrated society on the way towards building a worshipping community, with a real prayerful concern for Toc H. The ancient College of All Hallows — a team of clergy of diverse gifts and ministries — was being recreated, and over at Talbot House — 42 Trinity Square (the Vicarage of All Hallows), some thirty-five to forty young men formed the embryo of what could be a wonderful community.

COLIN WINTLE (*Press Adviser*) spoke of the awakened sense of the value of Public Relations since Jubilee Year, and paid tribute to the unknown gentleman whose complaint to the Prices and Incomes Board has given our Marks the most valuable publicity so far in our history.

Integration Debate Resumed

The final session on Saturday evening began with the men's and women's Councils meeting separately to reach a formal decision as to whether each was ready to 'pop the question' to the other. At our own Council, after the Integration motion had been formally proposed from the Chair, the final discussion began. There was some argument as to whether we should or should not discuss detailed administrative snags at all levels before passing the so-called 'point of no return'. But Col. J. A. DAVIES (*C.Ex.*) pointed out that, as in any kind of merger in industry, timing was the important factor, and once merging had taken place at the top the pace of integration could be controlled right down the line and human problems could be safeguarded.

TUBBY pointed out that what we spoke of as history in the making was already ancient history. Speaking as the only male member of the Women's Association he recalled that the first Central Executive in 1922 had three women members — all Foundation Members of Toc H.

The serious debating ended with a not-so-serious enquiry from S. D. BACHE (*East Anglia*) who wanted to know if the ladies come to the marriage bringing a debt or a dowry. The ADMINISTRATOR assured him that the ladies were doing their very best to assemble a dowry.

The motion was then put to the vote. 90 hands were raised in favour and 1 against. This result was greeted with loud applause.

Supplementary Resolution

Bearing in mind the fears expressed earlier about 'forcible Integration' the Council now proceeded to pass unanimously the following supplementary Resolution, proposed by E. KITCHEN (*Kent*) and seconded by N. WOOD (*Beds & Herts*):

> **Having resolved to establish an integrated Toc H Movement of men and women, this Council confirms its acceptance of the recommendation of the J.E.T. that the Movement after Integration will continue to contain, where it is desired, men's Branches, women's Branches and Joint Branches.**

Specially drawn for the RNLI by Eric Fraser FSIA

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RNLI

New Joint Periodical

R. S. THORNE (*C.Ex.*) proposed the following motion:

> **That this Council accepts the recommendation of the Joint Executive Team that as from 1.1.68 there shall be a new Joint periodical serving the one Movement.**
>
> **Further, it agrees that in giving effect to this decision, the "Toc H Journal" and "New Forum" shall cease to exist, subject to the acceptance by Toc H Women's Association of a similar motion in respect of "The Log" at its current Central Council Meeting.**

He felt that it was logical that there should be the one publication for the one Movement. R. E. GILL (*C.Ex.*) seconding, said that at present the men's *Journal* was a monthly publication, whilst the women's *Log* was bi-monthly. The new periodical would be monthly and, he hoped, would contain more pages than the present *Journal*.

In the ensuing discussion it was made plain that the periodical would be an entirely new creation and not an amalgamation of the existing publications. Whilst no objection was voiced to the replacement of the *Journal* and the *Log*, there was vociferous opposition, mainly from members of the staff, to the elimination of the *New Forum*. They felt that it was an expression of Toc H's capacity for outward thinking and an invaluable means of commendation amongst schools and universities. To achieve a circulation of 550 copies per quarter was no mean feat. Despite all this impassioned advocacy the main argument for its discontinuation came from its two joint Editors. One of them, KENNETH PRIDEAUX-BRUNE, said that, despite all efforts the *New Forum* was not doing what it set out to do and there was insuperable sales resistance to it within the Movement. His partner, TOM GULLIVER, said that the discontinuation of the *New Forum* had nothing to do with the financial aspect, and in any case the annual loss was easily bearable. He expected that one or two of the type of articles and book reviews now appearing in the *New Forum* would find a place in each issue of the new periodical.

The Administrator said that some twenty men and women from the journalistic field had been interviewed with a view to appointment as Editor of the prospective periodical and, subject to the passing of the Resolution, he hoped a choice would soon be made.

An overwhelming majority then voted in favour of the motion, only 4 voting against. And so to bed . . . for some, at least, though many for several hours chewed the rag over the big issue of the day before hitting the hay.

Sunday Worship

Sunday began with a Communion Service which, judging by the comments of men and women of all shades of churchmanship, reached a new height in the united Christian witness of Toc H. Some of the prayers led by lay men and women from the body of the congregation gave a fresh dimension to the feeling of being a close-knit Family.

Branch Standards

Originally H. GELL and H. D. MILLS, both of the Central Executive, had intended to put forward a Resolution, one effect of which would have been the minimal number of twelve people involved being applied not only to the recognition of new Branches but also to the re-grants of Branch status. But the Resolution was not proposed, to the evident satisfaction of Councillors generally. HARRY GELL, speaking on the subject, reminded us that some 60 Branches had a membership of six or less and some 370 had twelve or less. He felt that Toc H was only a viable fellowship when not less than a dozen or so people were involved.

H. O. BRIER (*W. Yorks*) spoke in support of the very small but effective Branches and J. P. WEBER (*N. London*) told of a District where, if the rule of twelve were applied, only two out of seven Branches would remain. N. WOOD (*Beds & Herts*) felt that the whole business of Branch regrants, of membership cards and their annual re-issue was a farce anyway, and a waste of time and money.

These and other expressions of opinion, it was promised from the Chair, would be referred to the Central Guard of the Lamp.

Farewells

The Council expressed its warm thanks to the three men who would have left the staff before the next Central Council. GEORGE ATKINSON (*Western Region*), by force of circumstances was having to return to his family business after six years' work at Dor Knap and in South Wales; BOB PURDY (*Northern Region*), who had served Toc H since the middle of World War II at home and overseas, was now hoping to go into the Methodist ministry; and JOHN CALLF (*Editorial Secretary and formerly Administrator*), who first joined the staff thirty years ago, was now leaving to take up some private writing.

Final Joint Session

At the final session we were joined once again by the Women's Association Councillors, whose Chairman, Miss CONSTANCE BEAZLEY, announced to cheers that they had voted unanimously in favour of the Integration Resolution and the proposed new Joint periodical.

And so the banns were called for the first time of asking, to be followed next year by the second call which will involve detailed consideration of a new Joint Constitution to be worked out meanwhile with the aid of legal experts. Plainly a great deal of hard work and preparation must go on at all levels in the ensuing months, but Councillors went away, as 'Doc' MITCHELL put it, full of optimism because of the feeling that Toc H, at the same time as becoming more and more outward-looking, was on the march again.

Tailpieces

In the closing minutes there was just time for some very practical tailpieces. CYRIL ROWLEY (*C.Ex.*) said a word or two about Toc H Centres — the Bristol Centre and its work with University students, its Caribbean Club for locally born and bred coloured folk, its epileptics' club, and work with alcoholics; the Croydon Centre with its growing ramifications; the Nottingham Centre, for which the initiative came from the local Branch, and the hopes there of moving to a larger Centre, with more facilities; and finally the new Cardiff Centre.

GEORGE EUSTANCE (*C.Ex.*), Development Officer for Young Volunteers of Merseyside with the Liverpool Council of Social Service, said that his work was a direct outcome of Toc H and everything undertaken was conditioned by experience in Toc H. He said that in initiating Projects the Movement had proved itself to be ahead of public feeling. On Merseyside there were now twenty organisations which provided opportunities for service by young people, with a vitally important central co-ordinating body, and such groups were springing up all over the country. It was no longer necessary to persuade young people to undertake jobs; the task was to induce people in key positions to accept their help. He said that a list of centres where co-ordinating bodies were to be found was available and hoped that good use would be made of it.

BILL CROOK (*C.Ex.*) spoke on behalf of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and put forward a plea that Toc H members would help in the campaign to save young lives by involving themselves, as several Branches had done already, in the National Cycling Proficiency Scheme. He himself had found great reward and enjoyment in his spare-time teaching of very young cyclists. Enquiries could be made to the local Road Safety Officer, Committee, or Regional Organiser.

Envoi

And to end this report in the words of CONSTANCE BEAZLEY: "Let us go forward into this new phase with courage, a spirit of devotion and enthusiasm, and let us at the same time ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit that all we do may be done in the spirit of love which is the real root and substance of Toc H."

APPOINTMENTS

On the recommendation of the Central Executive the following appointments were confirmed:

L. G. O. PRIDEAUX-BRUNE
as a President of the Corporation
J. LYNDSAY ORR
B. T. DICKSON
as Vice-Presidents of the Corporation.

* * *

On the proposal of the ADMINISTRATIVE PADRE, seconded by Co. J. A. DAVIES (*C.Ex.*) the following appointments and re-appointments as Hon. Association Padres were confirmed:

Overseas:

The Rt. Rev. K. CLEMENTS (C. of E.)
Australia
The Rev. W. A. FRASER, O.B.E. (Pres.) „
The Rt. Rev. Dr. T. T. REED (C. of E.) „
The Rev. N. L. SONNERS (C. of E.) „
The Rev. H. T. LEEDS (Pres.) Central Africa
The Ven. G. H. PUGH (C. of E.) „
The Rev. K. FAIRBAIRN (Pres.)
New Zealand
The Rev. W. R. P. EVANS (C. of E.)
South Africa

All with effect until December 31, 1969.

Home:

The Rev. J. O. C. ALLEYNE (C. of E.)
The Rev. K. BECK (Meth.)
The Rev. V. IRWIN (C. of E.)
The Rev. G. R. DE MELLO (C. of E.)
The Rev. D. H. ROBERTS (Bap.)

All for the period of staff appointment.

THE NEW CENTRAL EXECUTIVE

Due notice was given to Councillors that R. A. COATES, W. T. CROOK and J. B. POOLE, members of the Central Executive then in office, would not be standing for re-election. To these was added G. R. EUSTANCE. Appointed by show of hands: GEORGE W. U. LIDDLE (*member of Central Finance Committee*). As these were seventeen vacancies to be filled and seventeen candidates for election the Central Executive decided to forego its right to fill two places by co-option and to waive the rule that seven candidates should be domiciled in London and the Home Counties and eight in the Rest of the United Kingdom; it was thus possible to declare all seventeen candidates elected.

* * *

Elected Members:

W. HUGH BEETON (*S. London Area*); KENNETH H. BROADFIELD (*Solihull Branch, W. Midlands Area*); Col. Sir THOMAS BUTLER, Bt. (*Chairman, Services Team*); Col. JOHN A. DAVIES (*Beds & Herts Area*); HARRY GILL (*Bromley Branch, S.E. London Area*); ROLAND E. GILL (*Caister-on-Sea Branch, E. Anglia Area*); JOHN W. GREEN (*Nottingham City Branch, Notts & Derby Area*); COLIN S. GREGG (*Northern Area*); TOM A. R. GULLIVER (*Marshalswick Joint Branch, Beds & Herts Area*); ROBERT A. R. LESLIE (*Edinburgh Branch, Scottish Executive*); DONALD E. LOCKHART (*Berkhamsted Branch, Beds & Herts Area*); RICHARD F. LOWE (*Exeter Mobile Action*); HARRY D. MILLS (*Mill Hill Branch, N. London Area*); Dr. S. F. MITCHELL (*Beckley Branch, Sussex Area*); CYRIL A. ROWLEY (*Chippenham Branch, Western Area*); A. GEOFFREY C. SAVILL (*Southern Area*); RALPH S. THORNE (*Hemel Hempstead Branch, Beds & Herts*).

Ex-Officio Members

STANLEY V. BERWICK (*Sevenoaks Branch, Kent Area; Hon. Treasurer*); The Rev. Dr. P. B. CLAYTON (*Founder Padre*); S. GEORGE H. DAVIS (*Hon. Administrator*); The Rev. A. G. KNIGHT (*Administrative Padre*).

In Brisbane former staff member John Jans was married to Nurse Jean Ling from Thursday Island. Reg Morris, Toc H Queensland Commissioner, congratulates them.

freedom of speech

The Great Student Debate

CONGRATULATIONS. The two-sided approach in the April issue is a great credit to the JOURNAL and in keeping with the fair and liberal attitudes of the Toc H Movement. However, I do feel that both John Mellor and Peter Hargrave tend to condemn the L.S.E. students out of hand. As an L.S.E. student myself I feel strongly about the issues at stake. I would like to make four comments.

1. Peter Hargrave comments, "The recent L.S.E. rumpus was because some students wanted to have a say in who the School's new director should be and this seems typical of a world-wide growing tendency for students to claim the right to rule their own roost". This is untrue. Few students at the L.S.E. actually wish to have the right to elect their Director; clearly it is unnecessary to elect any educational administrators, but most students and a large proportion of the staff were disturbed at the appointment of Dr. Adams, formerly Director of University College, Rhodesia. The events of the last six months stemmed from the fact that the students were not allowed to air their opinion; it was in fact a denial of free speech. The more recent events, notably the 'sit-in' of March 13 to 21, which followed the meeting at which the tragic death of a porter occurred, have been more concerned with the cause of natural justice—the sentences against the two elected representatives of the student body.

2. As regards the question of support of the N.U.S., which John Mellor denies we had, I would point out that the boycott of November 21, 1966, had the support of the N.U.S., in fact a statement read at a meeting on that occasion ran, "This demonstration gives the opportunity for the students of L.S.E. to express their opinions in public. The N.U.S. gives its fullest support to the democratically elected Union council of L.S.E." (*Beover*, 24th November 1966).

Moreover for both the boycott and the sit-in, support poured in from other universities and colleges at home and abroad, from members of staff of both L.S.E. and other colleges, M.P.'s and others concerned.

3. Student action at the L.S.E. was far from irresponsible, as John Mellor would have it, save for a handful of extremists. Indeed it was a constant point of emphasis among student opinion that any irresponsibility would adversely affect any protest against the prohibition of natural justice and freedom of speech. If a charge of irresponsibility is to be levelled at anyone, it must be at the members of the academic board and the board of Governors for not having enough foresight to see the consequences of their quite unnecessary and clearly unjust action, and at those in the national press who treated the whole affair as a joke.

4. John Mellor says that the L.S.E. Union tackled the problem in the wrong way. Surely this was the only way in which students (some 70%, consisting of a complete cross-section of political opinion) deeply concerned that both free speech and natural justice was being prohibited, could express their case.

The motto of L.S.E. is "To understand the cause of things". I am sure that if both those in authority at the L.S.E. had abided by this in the first place, and if those members of the public who muttered derogatory remarks against students under their breath while reading newspaper reports at breakfast had bothered to go a little deeper into the problem, this anti-L.S.E. animosity would not be so prevalent.

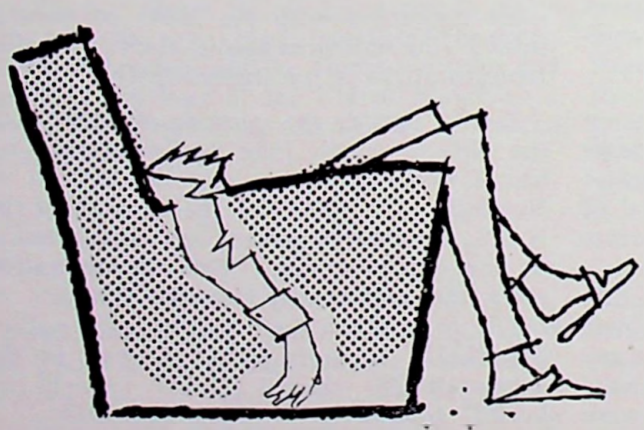
RAY F. ELLEN

Mill Hill.

JOHN MELLOR IN A FINE ARTICLE in April says "Yes". With all due respect I submit that before taking this Direct Action he talks about, students should be giving something to the community before they start the kind of rampaging that is going on now. I sometimes wonder if they really value the educational opportunities they enjoy today. They enjoy a standard that has been won for them over the years by men who were well past the student age before they really got going. I understand that to train a man to become a doctor costs the country around £19,000 per head; at this figure our students are a pretty costly business. Surely the answer is to be appreciative of the chances that are theirs by showing a responsible attitude to those who have the authority.

JIM SYMONS

Plymstock.



Ernie says:

The Secretary has to send H.Q. an annual list of our members;

The Treasurer has to send an annual finance statement;

The Jobbie has to send a jobs statement once every four years.

This is bureaucracy gone mad.

Recently the Marksmen of Gladstone House, Liverpool, played hosts to children from three local Homes. Sixteen-year-old Ken Pye, centre, gave a puppet show. Photo: Graham Spencer.

Marks in Mind

KEITH REA

Last Christmas our Marks received unexpected national prominence in the press and on radio when Toc H was reported to the Prices and Incomes Board because of a decision to increase its weekly charges! Our Finance Secretary reflects on some of the underlying problems.

IF WE DARE TO CONSIDER the changes over the last fifty years we become aware of the extent to which technology has affected our lives during that time. Without saying whether this is for the better or the worse we can still be aware of the changes which have led to the accepted norms of today. If we in Toc H wish to make a study of change we might well turn to the Marks as being the most comprehensive expression of the Movement. By comprehensive we mean that besides offering the Marksmen a real chance to test the Christian way of life the Marks provide beds, food, housekeeping and amenities for study and leisure.

The finances of our Marks could be compared to a barometer, showing an almost exact recording of the inflationary spiral of prices in line with the national trend. This has remained so even in these times of 'freeze' because of the effect on the service industries of the Selective Employment Tax. (The income standstill plus the imposition of the S.E.T. brings a lower standard of living, although no politician seems willing to admit it). Wages, in normal times, keep up with and even surpass prices and it is therefore necessary to keep increasing charges to Marksmen (who receive wage increases from time to time). It was largely the failure to

increase charges at the appropriate time which led to the heavy deficit in the Marks account last year and to our being featured in the press at Christmas. The rise in expenditure on Marks is a regular one which it is fairly easy to forecast and regulate by adjusting income; though a number of Marks have been rendered uneconomic by rising costs over the years. Some of these latter have closed, Mark XIV, Salford, being the latest to go.

Changed Standards

When we come to consider the amenities provided in our hostels, on a long term basis the changes appear much slower but in the course of forty years they are still quite marked and are linked with the rising standards of material well-being. For instance in 1925 the only means of radio communication was the crystal set; now most Marks have radio and television, with a special room for them—and a room too where people can get away from them! The advent of washing machines and drip-dry shirts has led to a demand for a laundry room, and all kinds of electrical appliances, including shavers, are involving heavy expenditure on rewiring and power plugs.

Government standards for fire escapes, catering and toilet facilities have been raised, and here again Toc H has kept up as best it could. Central heating has become an irresistible vogue for hostels, though not all Marks are yet so heated. Dark and ancient furniture is still quite widely in use; the more modern designs are beyond the total furnishing and repairs budget of £15,000 a year. One may get an idea of the furnishing problem from the fact that to provide one Mark with lino throughout can cost as much as £1,000.

The demands for a higher standard of hostel accommodation have accelerated in the last ten years, spurred on by vast advertising campaigns which seek to convince the public that the purchasing of this and that will lead to a happier life. While the aims of Toc H run counter to this maxim, 'scruffiness' has no merit either, and certainly we have to start where people are and cannot offer to the young men arriving at the Marks a far lower standard of accommodation, etc., than that to which they are accustomed.

The problem is then, how can we run, and bring up to standard Marks which are uneconomic in size and yet retain their potential as sources of Christian conviction which we in Toc H usually maintain is only possible when a comparatively small group of men is involved.

The subject is very much under discussion at the present time and it seems to me that only fairly radical thinking is likely to contribute much. It has never been clear to me why Marks have to be one hundred per cent hostels anyway, and new ideas for using assets worth probably at least £300,000 are certainly needed and should not be lightly rejected. We must keep in view too that our aim in Marks is to spread the Kingdom and not to provide a 'dead end' service.

This article has not attempted to deal with detailed facts and figures, about which I know there are a good many misconceptions in the minds of Toc H members. I hope to deal with this in a future article.

. . . we will remember them

Barker—On April 12, Edward Riley Barker, aged 40, of Lindley Branch. Elected 1966.

Dale—On March 27, the Rev. Harry James Dale, aged 77, Padre of Lymington Branch, formerly of Battle. Elected 1928.

Edwards—On March 23, Evan Edwards, aged 67, of Mochdre Branch. Elected 1957.

Gardiner—On April 12, Reginald Charles Gardiner, aged 61, of Paignton Branch. Elected 1967.

Hartley—On March 20, Sidney Hartley, aged 48, a W. Yorks Area member, formerly of Halifax. Elected 1948.

Iles—On March 20, Frederick Charles Allison Iles, aged 69, of former Park Street & Frogmore Branch. Elected 1927.

Nash—On March 19, Percy Wilfred Nash, aged 67, of South Petherton Branch. Elected 1964.

Rogers—On April 2, William Robert Leslie Rogers, aged 52, of St. Thomas (Exeter) Branch. Elected 1937.

Around the World *Toc H Overseas*

FROM CANADA

The opening article in the JOURNAL *of May, 1932, was by Harry Moss, just one of many men whose lives were changed in the Upper Room of Talbot House in World War I. This one-time lance-corporal, badly wounded and with a D.C.M. to show for it, became a rector in a country parish in Manitoba, and at the time of writing that article the temperature outside was 'forty below'. Now, thirty-five years later, comes a letter from Hudson Bay congratulating us on the change in size of the* JOURNAL. *He writes—*

As Tubby has written in its first issue, "Both I and all old comrades near my age are well content to leave Toc H in young hands . . ."

In forty-four years I have been a 'loner', since leaving Mark I (Kensington) for Canada in 1923, and in Palestine, Iraq and Iran, until returning to Canada in 1947. I have in my possession a copy of the JOURNAL for 1932, wherein is an article I subscribed, which today will make poor reading. The introduction by Tubby may interest some.

But Tubby may not remember how, years later, I turned the tables on him. Whilst on leave from Palestine (where I was Chaplain to the Iraq Petroleum Company) we lunched together one day at the Royal Automobile Club (I think with another named Cochrane). On leaving the Club I pointed out to Tubby that I was a member of a much better Club than the RAC, adding that I claimed membership of the Athenaeum. Naturally this was considered funny, if not absurd, but to prove my point I insisted that we enter the Athenaeum where I would show positive proof. We strolled up the steps of this stately building and asked for the Secretary. Both PBC and the other considered that the joke had gone far enough, and wanted to withdraw but I insisted that we stayed.

The Secretary appeared. There was no need to introduce Tubby as he was well known, but I did introduce myself as being quite unknown. It was an embarrassing moment when I asked if we might view the dining room. There I pointed out a corner with three or four tables—"That is where I served," I said, and turning to the Secretary added: "I am a member". To their amazement I then asked to see the kitchens and staff rooms, explaining that it was a good thing for members occasionally to get a look at where their meals came from and the place where the staff valiantly toiled. By this time Tubby was ready to explode, and the Secretary was apologising for not recognising a member. Finally we came to a halt in front of a Roll of Honour of staff who had served in the first world war. And there, plain for all to read, was the name, HARRY MOSS. 1914-1918.

Tubby's inimitable humour saved the day; the Secretary was delighted, and later wrote me a very nice letter saying that he had told the Club Committee of "this astounding incident".

Just before the first war broke out, at the very early age of eighteen, I had found myself in London, a simple country lad, unemployed and terribly alone. I read the daily newspapers and answered the first 'wanted' advertisement, and that is how I became a waiter for six months until, in a tent set up in St. James' Park nearby, I enlisted into the Essex Regiment, in September 1914.

There were no hostels, clubs, or even a room for lone fellows in those days. After

the war, in 1920, I joined Tubby in London to lick stamps at *The Challenge* office, mailing the first Toc H Talbot House appeal, often without a stamp! At 36 Red Lion Square I helped the 'General' with fried fish and chip suppers, and was finally despatched to look after the first Mark at 23 Queen's Gate (later No. 8).

Forgive an old comrade of seventy-two 'half way up the hill', sending such nonsense. Could it awaken a response today? I retired from the Church last April but could not remain idle and volunteered for this isolated far northern frozen spot. Please inform Colin Cuttell that tonight it is thirty below zero; a cool number?

In the Know

Notes from the General Secretary

DR. S. F. MITCHELL has been re-elected Chairman and DONALD LOCKHART elected Vice-Chairman of the Central Executive for 1967-1968.

BAOR. A welcome to HUGH CLYNE and ROGER ROBERTON, new recruits as Assistant Wardens in our Services Clubs in Germany.

NORTH WESTERN AREA. IAN ANDERSON has resigned as H.A.C. and has been succeeded by W. W. TOOHEY, 12 Castleview Road, Liverpool, 12.

LAKELAND AREA. The address of the H.A.C., E. C. HACKETT, is now 107 Sedbergh Road, Kendal.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION. Five years ago Her Majesty QUEEN ELIZABETH the QUEEN MOTHER opened Prideaux House (Mark III), Hackney. A birthday celebration takes place in the House on June 3, when the MAYOR OF HACKNEY will be present.

MARK XX, PUTNEY. The new wing, to be named after W. A. ('BILL') HARRIS, for many years Hon. Warden of the Mark, will be opened by MARK BONHAM CARTER, Esq., on June 10 at 3 p.m.

"TAPING TOC H". Something rather unusual. Those interested in exploring (in a practical way) the creative uses of the tape-recorder in Toc H are invited to join the week-end party at Dor Knap, July 7-9. Further details from Cyril Cattell at Headquarters.

WHAT TOC H OWES to the wives of its staff men is brought to mind by news in May of the deaths of two widows of former leaders. MRS. ETHEL WATKINS was the widow of PADRE OWEN WATKINS, one-time Administrative Padre, and a former Methodist Deputy Chaplain-General. MRS. JEANNIE SAWERS was the widow of BOB SAWERS, for many years Area Secretary in Scotland and later Builders' Secretary at Headquarters.

NORMANHURST PRIVATE HOTEL, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. We are asked to make it clear that notwithstanding some press reports of hotel closures (one of which is named "Normanhurst"), Normanhurst Private Hotel is still open and under the same proprietors as for the past eighteen years. Toc H members and friends will, as usual, be very welcome.

GOING ON HOLIDAY? If you want to know if a Toc H Branch meets there, and when, look up the May JOURNAL list to see if a Branch exists: then send an enquiry postcard to the Branch Secretary, c/o the Regional staff man or H.A.C. listed. It should work.

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